

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /132 W

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R 251630Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7628

USMISSION BERLIN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13864

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, WB

SUBJECT: PROPOSED JOINT MEETING IN BERLIN OF BUNDESTAG

INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS AND SPORTS COMMITTEES

REF: A) BERLIN 1607, PARA 17, AUGUST 12, 1971; B) BONN

A-879, PARA 23, OCTOBER 8, 1971

1. AT SEPTEMBER 21 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG REP REQUESTED ALLIED VIEWS ON PLANNED OCTOBER 17 JOINT MEETING IN WEST BERLIN OF BUNDESTAG INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS AND SPORTS COMMITTEES. THE JOINT MEETING WOULD BE THE FIRST HELD SINCE THE CONCLUSION OF THE BERLIN AGREEMENT. THE FRG REP CONSIDERED THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD FALL WITHIN THE AUGUST 11, 1971 "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" CONCLUDED IN THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE BERLIN AGREEMENT.

2. THE COMMITTEES' AGENDA NOW CONSISTS OF A) PROBLEMS REGARDING INNER-GERMAN SPORT EXCHANGES, AND B) QUESTIONS RELATING TO MEMBERSHIP OF WEST BERLIN SPORT ORGANIZATIONS
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IN THE GERMAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION, BUT OTHER ITEMS MAY BE

ADDED.

3. AT SEPTEMBER 24 TRIPARTITE MEETING FRENCH REP (PAYE) SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION BUT THAT "WE MUST SAY YES." BRITISH REP (CULLIMORE) SAID UK EMBASSY HAS PRELIMINARY VIEW THAT ALLIES ON RATHER THIN ICE SINCE EXACT TEXT OF WHAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV HAD SAID DURING THE AUGUST 11, 1971 TRIPARTITE SESSION DID NOT APPEAR TO BE OPEN-ENDED (SEE PARA 17 REFTEL A). UK REP ADDED THAT IT DID NOT APPEAR TO BE A GOOD TIME UNNECESSARILY TO ANTAGONIZE THE RUSSIANS AND WONDERED WHETHER THE ALLIES SHOULD APPROACH FRG AND COUNSEL RECONSIDERATION OF PLANNED MEETING. FRENCH REP RESTATED VIEW THAT ALLIES WOULD HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH FRG REQUEST BUT EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH APPROACH SUGGESTED BY UK REP. US REP SAID FROM HIS READING OF "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" HE WAS AWARE OF BASIS FOR UK ATTITUDE. HOWEVER, HE SAID, TOTAL CONTEXT OF AGREEMENT WAS SUCH THAT HE BELIEVED PROPOSED MEETING WAS COVERED, AND HE SUGGESTED FURTHER TRIPARTITE DISCUSSION OF MATTER AFTER RECEIPT OF VIEWS FROM CAPITALS BEFORE GOING AHEAD WITH ANY APPROACH TO FRG ALONG LINES SET OUT BY UK REP.

4. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT THE PLANNED MEETING APPROPRIATELY COMES UNDER "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT." BECAUSE OF FRENCH AND BRITISH ATTITUDE AND SINCE THIS IS FIRST TEST OF AGREEMENT, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S AND USBER'S COMMENTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN13864
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS CASH
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730913/aaaaajls.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) BERLIN 1607, PARA 17, AUGUST 12,, 1971; B) BONN
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jul-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18-Sep-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED JOINT MEETING IN BERLIN OF BUNDESTAG INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS AND SPORTS COMMITTEES
TAGS: PFOR, GE, WB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005